

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

We claim:

1. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition, comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of 1,2-alkanediols consisting of two or more straight chain 1,2-alkanediols having chain lengths that (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, wherein said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols exhibits an antimicrobial effect characterized by a Kull value of less than 1.

2. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that a Kull value of 0.83 or less for the antimicrobial effect exhibited by said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols results.

3. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the mixture contains 1,2-hexanediol and one, two or three further straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain length of which in each case is in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms.

4. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of 1,2-alkanediols consisting of at least one of:

(a) 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol,

(b) 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-decanediol,

(c) 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol,

(d) 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-octanediol and 1,2-decanediol and

(e) 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-decanediol

as antimicrobial active compounds, the proportions of the said diols in the mixture of 1,2-alkanediols being set such that a Kull value of less than 1.0 for the antimicrobial effect exhibited by said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols results.

5. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of each individual diol is in the range of 20 to 80% (m/m) based on the total mass of the mixture of the diols.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of 1,2-alkanediols consisting of two or more straight chain 1,2-alkanediols having chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, wherein the proportions of ~~[[the]]~~ said diols in the mixture of 1,2-alkanediols are set such that a Kull value of less than 1.0 for the antimicrobial effect exhibited by said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols results for at least one of:

(a) ~~the~~ a cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing body odour,

(b) ~~the~~ a cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing acne,

- (c) ~~the~~ a cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing mycoses,
- (d) ~~the~~ a treatment of microorganisms on or in inanimate material and
- (e) ~~the~~ preservation of a perishable product.

8. (currently amended) An antimicrobially active pharmaceutical composition consisting of an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of 1,2-alkanediols consisting of two or more straight chain 1,2-alkanediols having chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture of 1,2-alkanediols are such that said mixture of 1,2 alkanediols exhibits an antimicrobial effect characterized by a Kull value of less than 1.0.

9. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition according to claim 1, further comprising an antimicrobial active compound in an amount at which an antimicrobial action of a mixture of said antimicrobial active compound and said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols ~~mixture~~ is synergistically intensified, the further antimicrobial active compound not being a straight-chain 1,2-alkanediol.

10. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition, comprising:

(a) as antimicrobial active compound, a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, and

(b) an excipient compatible with the said mixture, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that a Kull value of less than 1.0 for the antimicrobial effect exhibited by said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols results.

11. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition, comprising

(a) an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, and

(b) a preservative other than straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that a Kull value of less than 1.0 for the antimicrobial effect exhibited by said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols results.

12. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said preservative (b) is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid and the esters and salts thereof, propionic acid and salts thereof, salicylic acid and salts thereof, 2,4-hexanoic acid and salts thereof, formaldehyde and paraformaldehyde, 2-hydroxybiphenyl ether and salts thereof, 2-zincsulphidopyridine-N-oxide, inorganic sulphites and bisulphites, sodium iodate, chlorobutanol, 4-ethylmercury-(II)-5-amino-1,3-bis(2-hydroxy)benzoic acid and salts and esters thereof, dehydracetic acid, formic acid, 1,6-bis(4-amidino-2-bromophenoxy)-n-hexane and salts thereof, the sodium salt of ethylmercury-(II)-thiosalicylic acid, phenylmercury and salts thereof, 10-undecylenic acid and salts thereof, 5-amino-1,3-bis(2-ethylhexyl)-5-methyl-hexahydropyrimidine, 5-bromo-5-nitro-1,3-dioxane, 2-bromo-2-nitro-1,3-

propanediol, 2,4-dichlorobenzyl alcohol, N-(4-chlorophenyl)-N'-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-urea, 4-chloro-m-cresol, 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxy-diphenyl ether, 4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenol, 1,1'-methylene-bis(3-(1-hydroxymethyl-2,4-dioximidazolidin-5-yl)urea), poly-(hexamethylene diguanide) hydrochloride, 2-phenoxyethanol, hexamethylenetetramine, 1-(3-chloroallyl)-3,5,7-triaza-1-azoniaadamantane chloride, 1(4-chlorophenoxy)-1(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone, 1,3-bis-(hydroxy-methyl)-5,5-dimethyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione, benzyl alcohol, octopirox, 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane, 2,2'-methylene-bis(6-bromo-4-chloro-phenol), bromo-chlorophene, mixture of 5-chloro-2-methyl-3(2H)isothiazolinone and 2-methyl-3(2H)isothiazolinone with magnesium chloride and magnesium nitrate, 2-benzyl-4-chlorophenol, 2-chloracetamide, chlorhexidine, chlorhexidine acetate, chlorhexidine gluconate, chlorhexidine hydrochloride, 1-phenoxy-propan-2-ol, N-alkyl(C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>)trimethyl-ammonium bromide and chloride, 4,4-dimethyl-1,3-oxazolidine, N-hydroxymethyl-N-(1,3-di(hydroxymethyl)-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl)-N'-hydroxy-methyl urea, 1,6-bis(4-amidino-phenoxy)-n-hexane and salts thereof, glutaraldehyde 5-ethyl-1-aza-3,7-dioxabicyclo(3.3.0)octane, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)-1,2-propanediol, hyamine, alkyl-(C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)-dimethyl-benzylammonium chloride, alkyl-(C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)-dimethyl-benzyl ammonium bromide, alkyl-(C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>)-dimethyl-benzyl ammonium saccharinate, benzylbemiformal, 3-iodo-2-propinylbutyl carbamate, sodium hydroxymethyl-aminoacetate or sodium hydroxymethyl-aminoacetate.

13. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said preservative (b) is 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane.

14. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said preservative (b) is 2-phenoxyethanol.

15. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said preservative (b) is 3-iodo-2-propinyl-butyl carbamate.

16. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said mixture (a) comprises 1,2-hexanediol or 1,2-octanediol.

17. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said mixture of straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols comprises 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol.

18. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, further comprising a preservative.

19. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 18, wherein said preservative is 3-iodo-2-propinyl-butyl carbamate.

20. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 4, wherein said 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol are present in a ratio of 1:1.

21. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 4, wherein said 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol are present in a ratio of 2:1.

22. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols in an amount between 0.01 and 30% (m/m) by mass of said antimicrobial composition.

23. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition of claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises said mixture of 1,2-alkanediols in an amount between 0.1 and 5% (m/m) by mass of said antimicrobial composition.